



PARTNERS IN POLICING

The following statement is being released by Chief Superintendent Brian Brennan, Criminal Operations Officer, RCMP Nova Scotia and Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Halifax Regional Police

RCMP/HRP conclude investigation into alleged abuse of former residents of Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children

The Integrated RCMP/HRP Investigation Team has concluded their investigation into allegations of physical and sexual abuse of former residents of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children.

In March 2012, the RCMP and HRP released a statement encouraging individuals with direct information on alleged abuse to come forward to speak with police. An investigative team was formed shortly after to focus solely on these allegations. We understand that a significant period of time has passed since these alleged instances of abuse took place and it may have been difficult for people to discuss this very challenging time in their lives. However, we were encouraged by the number of people that came forward to speak with police. The team did an exceptional job conducting a thorough investigation and various avenues available for investigative perusal were examined.

The investigative team traveled throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta to personally interview 40 complainants. Possible witnesses and those with potential information on the allegations were also interviewed in an effort to corroborate statements and garner further evidence.

The Investigative Team has determined that the evidence brought forward does not support the laying of criminal charges. The information obtained was unable to be corroborated to meet the threshold that would formulate reasonable and probable grounds to lay criminal

charges. It is important to understand that in order for police to lay charges in any investigation these grounds must be supported by evidence that will withstand the scrutiny of the court process.

This investigation warranted only limited consultation with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service due to a lack of reasonable and probable grounds to lay charges.

Throughout the investigation, some individuals were earlier notified that their cases would not be investigated further. This was determined by the inability to gather sufficient evidence to support and substantiate criminal charges. Many years have passed since some of the allegations were to have taken place and some of those alleged to have committed criminal acts have since passed away.

We appreciate the cooperation of those involved in the many aspects of this case as well as the patience and understanding of the public while the investigation was ongoing. There continues to be a considerable amount of public interest in this matter and we strongly encourage anyone who hasn't spoken with police and who has direct information on alleged abuse to please come forward.

Signed:

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